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## THE PROPOSED REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SIGMA XI

The very rapid growth in science and in the number of scientific societies during the past quarter century has resulted in ever changing conditions which scientific organizations must face. When Sigma Xi was founded in 1886 scientific research in both pure and applied science was to a large extent confined to the universities and it was perfectly natural that in the organization of Sigma Xi the universities and university men should play the most important if not the only rôle. This was the fundamental idea upon which the constitution of 1893 and every subsequent revision thereof were based. For example, only members connected with universities could be active members. Chapters could be located only at universities.

However, we now face conditions which are radically different from those of a quarter century ago. At the present time a very large amount of applied science work and a great deal of work in even pure science is being done outside of university circles. A large number of those who have been elected to Sigma Xi have no connection whatever with universities. Under our present constitution these extra-university members can have no active part in the affairs and projects of the Society.

The success of the movement to establish Sigma Xi fellowships by soliciting small annual contributions from these extra-university members has been far greater than even its most ardent advocates dared hope. The conclusion is absolutely clear that those who are not now called active members of Sigma Xi are nevertheless as keenly interested as ever in its organization, its business, and its projects and that if given a chance to contribute to the support of the Society will do so gladly.

The time seemed ripe, therefore, in view of the alterations in the status of science since 1886, to completely revise our constitution in such a way as to include in active membership those who up to the present time have been forced into the so-called alumni or non-active membership class. Accordingly on the supposition "once a member, always a member" all former membership classifications have been discarded and it is proposed hereafter that the membership of the Society shall comprise "members" and "associates"

with the further classification, applied to each more or less for the sake of convenience, of "chapter" and "alumni." Chapter members or chapter associates are actively connected with institutions where chapters are located. Alumni members and alumni associates are those who are not so connected. Members and associates, whether chapter or alumni, hold equal duties, responsibilities and privileges to the Society excepting that new members are to be elected by chapters.

According to the proposed constitution, then, chapter members and associates will support the activities of the chapters, one of the main duties of which is to elect new members. Alumni members and associates will contribute to Society projects, at the present time at least by small annual contributions for the support of fellowships. It is proposed to form an alumni committee which should represent alumni members at conventions and in other official ways, particularly as regards the disbursement of the alumni fund for the support of fellowships and other similar projects.

It is hoped that the several chapters will study the proposed constitution very carefully so that when the matter comes up for final action at the next annual meeting delegates will be prepared to express the opinions of their several chapters and to offer constructive criticisms.